

Expanding In-Person Learning: Meeting DESE's Revised Regulations for Structured Learning Time

School Committee Presentation - April 21, 2021





Agenda

1. Summary of In-Person Expansion Plan for Secondary Schools
2. Current Remote and In-Person Enrollment Data for Grades K to 5
3. Projected April 26th Remote and In-Person Enrollment Data for Grades 6 to 12
4. Professional Development Follow Up
5. Operations Follow Up - FAQ
6. Important Upcoming Dates
7. LPS COVID Dashboard



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SY2020-2021 PHASED EXPANSION OF SAFE IN-PERSON LEARNING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

BEGAN SEPTEMBER 17; SCALED BACK DUE TO SURGING COVID-19 DATA ON OCTOBER 19

PHASE 1

PARTIAL RETURN TO PHASE 1 BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 22; FULL RETURN TO PHASE 1 ON MARCH 1

ONGOING PREPARATION & READINESS

- *Nov. 2020* - SURVEY FAMILIES
- *Ongoing* - UPDATE STUDENT ASSIGNMENT POLICY
- *Feb. 2021* - UPDATE CLASS ROSTERS

- RETURN TO ORIGINAL RE-OPENING MODEL AS PER SC VOTE
- UP TO 25% FULL-TIME IN-PERSON LEARNERS, 75% FULL-TIME REMOTE
- PRIORITIZED IN-PERSON ENROLLMENT FOR MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS, GRADES PK-12
- MAINTAIN ROSTERING CONTINUITY FOR LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL (~10% IN-PERSON)

PHASE 2

IN-PERSON RETURN OF K-5 BEGAN ON APRIL 5th FOLLOWING THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TIMELINE

PLANNING AND DESIGN

- *2/3 - 2/23* - SURVEY FAMILIES
- *3/3 TO 3/17* - SC APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM TO DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN
- *2/17 - 3/15* - UPDATE CLASS ROSTERS AND FINALIZE SCHOOL-BASED PLANS
- *3/1 - 3/22* - FINALIZE BUS ROUTES AND STAFFING
- *3/20 - 3/25* - PROVIDE PD ON CONCURRENT TEACHING

- TWO COHORTS OF IN-PERSON LEARNERS PLUS REMOTE OPTION
 - MAINTAIN PHASE 1 (25% FULL-TIME IN-PERSON COHORT FOR PK-12)
 - APRIL 5TH FULL IN-PERSON OPTION FOR ELEMENTARY (K-5) STUDENTS OF THE 75% WHO HAVE BEEN FULLY REMOTE SINCE SEPT. 17TH.
 - MAINTAIN FULL-TIME REMOTE OPTION FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

PHASE 3

WILL BEGIN ON APRIL 26th FOLLOWING THE TIMELINE ESTABLISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

PLANNING AND DESIGN

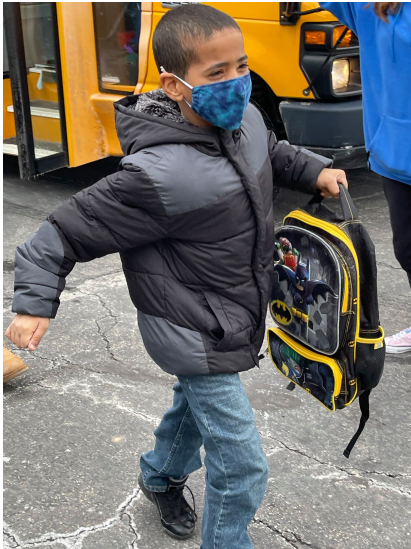
- *2/17 - 3/15* UPDATE CLASS ROSTERS AND LEVEL CLASS SIZES
- RECONFIGURE CLASSROOM SPACES BASED ON UPDATED GUIDANCE
- *3/1 - 3/22* REVISE TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND BUS ROUTES
- *2/17 - 3/15* FINALIZE SCHOOL-BASED PLANS AND STAFFING ASSIGNMENTS

- UP TO 100% OF GRADES PK-12 PROVIDED WITH ACCESS TO FULL-TIME IN-PERSON LEARNING
 - APRIL 26TH FULL IN-PERSON OPTION FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8) STUDENTS OF THE 75% WHO HAVE BEEN FULLY REMOTE SINCE SEPT. 17TH.
 - APRIL 26TH - LHS HYBRID MODEL
 - MAINTAIN FULL-TIME REMOTE OPTION FOR ALL GRADES



Summary of LPS In-Person Expansion Plan

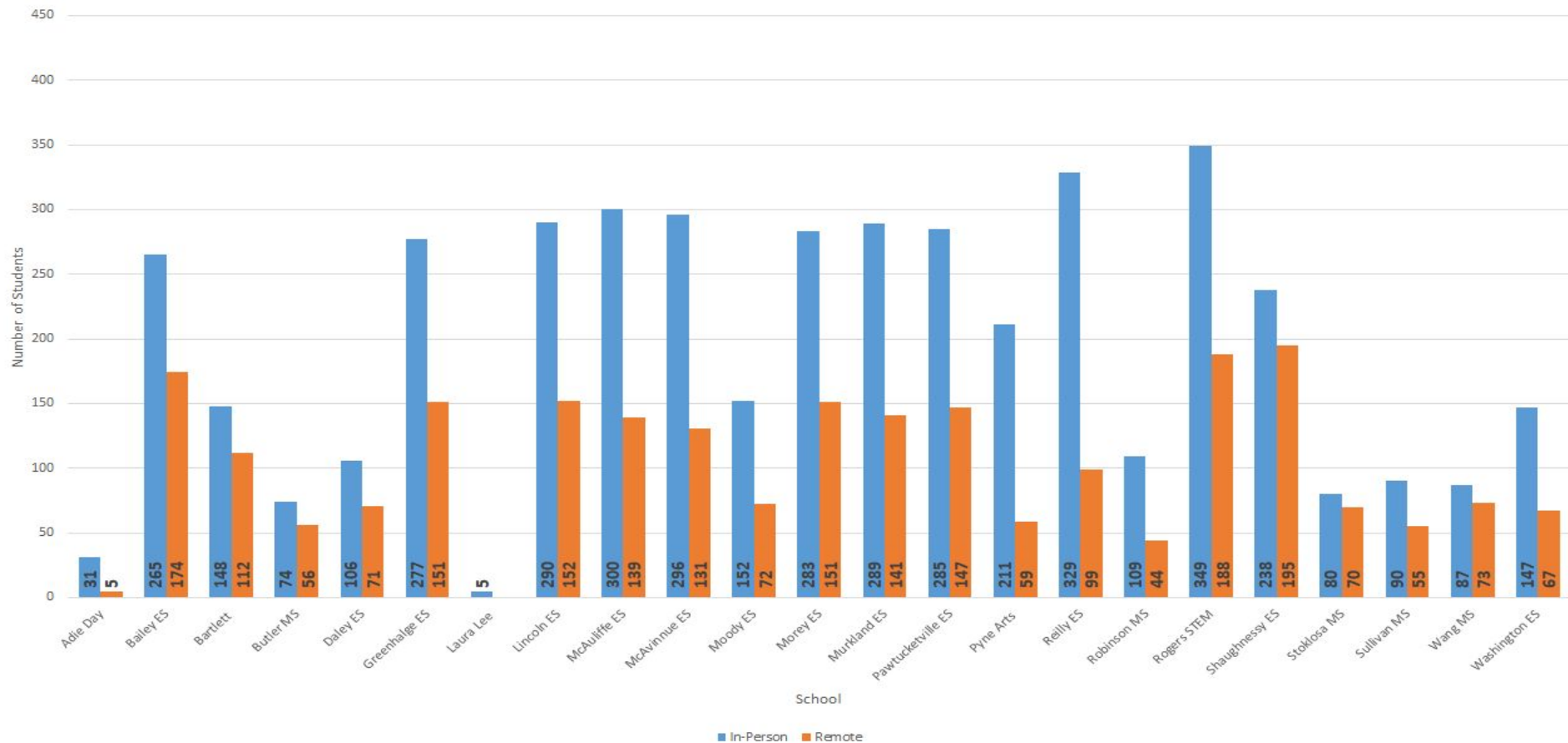
The significant prior planning in anticipation of an April expansion of in-person learning as adopted by the School Committee on February 22 has positioned LPS well for the implementation of the DESE regulations for structured learning time, with a few adjustments at each grade span as noted below. Based on feedback from multiple stakeholders, pending Committee approval, our local timeline for expanding in-person learning will shift to a phased approach:



- **April 5th** - 5 days per week in-person instructional model for students in grades K-5 with a parental option of full remote.
- **April 26th** - 5 days per week in-person instructional model for middle school students in grades 6-8 with a parental option of full remote.
- **April 26th** - Hybrid model at LHS with lunch time dismissal.

Grades K-5 In-Person/Remote Enrollment Breakdown

Grade K - 5 Enrollment Breakdown by Instruction Mode



Grades 6 – 8 In Person/Remote Enrollment

School	In Person Enrollment April 5	Remote Enrollment April 5	Total Projected In Person Enrollment April 26	Total Projected Remote Enrollment April 26
Adie Day School	8	1	8	1
Bartlett Community Partnership	16	152	93	59
BRIDGE Program	18	10	21	7
Butler Middle School	51	363	253	110
Daley Middle School	112	396	258	138
Laura Lee Therapeutic Day School	15	3	15	3
Leblanc Therapeutic Day School	2	0	2	0
Pyne Arts Magnet School	5	160	122	38
Robinson Middle School	129	365	312	53
Rogers STEM Academy	57	270	259	11
Stoklosa Middle School	85	416	191	225
Sullivan Middle School	116	379	273	106
Wang Middle School	114	384	260	124
Grand Total	728	2899	2067	875



High School Plan for Return to In-Person

- LHS return to in-person for the 75% on April 26th.
- Anticipated return to the main building - 514
 - B house - 135
 - C house - 126
 - D house - 131
 - E house - 122
- Anticipated return at the Freshman Academy - 311
- Schedule
 - School starts 7:55 am
 - Lunch 12:20 pm grab'n' go
 - After lunch classes are virtual
 - Sub-separate and 25% currently in-person will remain in school all day.
- Transitions throughout the building will follow social distancing guidelines
- Scheduling - Student schedules will remain intact in order to maintain continuity in student rosters to preserve the relationships



Professional Development Follow-up

- The Office of Teaching and Learning offered school-based staff, assigned to a classroom that requires concurrent/simultaneous teaching, professional development in an “Ed. Camp” format. This format allowed participants to select sessions specifically to meet their learning needs.
- 93 professional development sessions were offered during the Ed Camp (March 20th - March 25th) LHS department chairs offered additional separate professional development for LHS staff to support specific content.
- Staff were surveyed at the end of the week, and the feedback was positive. Some examples of feedback included:
 - *“I truly appreciate the effort put into this endeavor with little lead time.”*
 - *“Great workshop. Thank you for the opportunity.”*
 - *“Thank you for hosting this! It was great and very helpful.”*
 - *“It would be great to have more sessions like this.”*
- Cameras were distributed and Technology Integration Specialists have been supporting/troubleshooting for staff since April 5th.





Operations Follow Up - FAQs

Q: Are mask breaks mandatory and can they be scheduled by teachers?

A: Principals have arranged for appropriate mask breaks at all schools. Additionally, in consultation with the principal, a teacher can schedule a mask break when she or he feels it is appropriate.

Q: Are there consequences for not correctly wearing a mask?

A: Teachers first attempt to correct the behavior and then the principal addresses it with the students and parents. Eventually, if corrections were not made without good reason, the student may have to participate remotely, in the most extreme cases.

Q: Will all rooms have air purifiers by April 26, 2021?

A: Every single room in the district will not have a purifier. The Reopening MOA states that “classrooms” will have purifiers. This does not include “all rooms” however, we are deploying the surplus of air purifiers to as many rooms as possible. Ultimately, whether an instructional space receives a purifier will be dependent upon how many students are regularly in the area.



Operations Follow Up - FAQs

Q: Should kids bring their hotspots to school?

A: Children are not required to bring their hotspot to school.

Q: Is there a plan for internet issues?

A: We have not yet experienced widespread internet issues with the return of K-5 students. If there was a massive internet failure, a decision would be made by the Superintendent on whether or not to cancel school for that day, in order to be able to adequately make up the learning, if alternatives were not reasonably available.

Q: If our class is assigned to eat in the classroom, how will they do that if they are only 3 feet apart?

A: For lunch periods, children will be spaced out 6ft in classrooms if they are eating inside a classroom, or they will eat outside, or in another location where they are 6 feet apart.



Operations Follow Up - FAQs

Q: Are parents being informed whether or not their child has transportation? If they don't receive transportation, who is following up with each family to check if they will be returning in person or staying remote?

A: Transportation informed those who received transportation. The principals and other staff members are communicating with parents on selections and answering any questions parents may have.

Q: What is the bathroom procedure?

A: Principals are regulating the amount of students allowed in a bathroom and when the bathroom is used. Procedures are dependent on the size of the bathrooms and signage should be posted.

Q: Do we have a plan for emergencies? Will we be having fire drills?

A: Yes. Fire drills will still happen for preparedness. Emergency procedures are still in place.



Operations Follow Up - FAQs

Q: What is the protocol for visiting the nurse?

A: If children need to see the nurse, there are appropriate areas to wait and to ensure confidentiality. Principals manage that this is done in an appropriate and safe manner.

Q: Will there be substitute teachers available?

A: Yes, there is a substitute list. Teachers should continue to have lesson plans prepared for substitutes. Paraprofessionals are also able to substitute teach.

Q: Should students leave computers at school?

A: No, students should take computers home to be prepared for zooming if a class needs to be converted due to an emergency i.e. like a snow day, loss of power, or quarantine situation.

Q: What if a student does not have a computer, their computer is broken or inoperable?

A: Schools will support students to ensure that every child has the necessary supplies to support learning, including support with repair or replacement of a device. The IT dept. estimates replacing 30-40 broken devices per week.



Operations Follow Up - FAQs

Q: What will arrival look like if we have to manage students coming in both physically and virtually?

A: Principals are staggering arrivals and managing this in a safe manner.

Q: Are students using lockers?

Yes, if such can be done in a safe way after the principal's analysis.

Q: What are students allowed to bring into the classroom?

A: Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle; however, water is provided for students who do not bring a water bottle. Students may also bring a home lunch if they prefer, as well as their books, devices, school supplies, and other appropriate items needed.

Q: Are there masks provided for students who don't bring one or need a new one throughout the day?

A: Yes.



Family Information Sessions

- Virtual information sessions were provided by all schools to update families on the expansion of in-person learning in March and April.

A few secondary schools hosted additional sessions to provide further updates to families:

- Butler, April 13th
 - LHS, April 14th
 - Robinson, April 15th
- Schools continue to engage families in assisting them with their in-person or remote learning needs.





Important Upcoming Dates

Below is the timeline for families who initially selected remote learning to change to in-person instruction:

- **May 3rd** - families may select in-person from remote learning for grades K-5
- **May 24th**- families may select in-person from remote learning for grades 6-12
- **May 24th**- families may select in-person from remote learning for grades K-5



Lowell Public Schools COVID Dashboard

Located on the Lowell Public Schools website: <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/coviddashboard>

Includes information and updates on:

- COVID-19 data
- Protocols and guidelines
- Where to go to get tested
- What to do if you test positive, or are a close contact
- COVID-19 Vaccine

Lowell Public Schools COVID Dashboard

Current Learning Model:

All Lowell Public Schools students are taking part in remote learning.

Plan for students returning on campus:

The School Committee, after consultation with the Board of Health, set the following target dates for returning students to in-person learning, provided the COVID-19 data can improve between now and then:

COVID Data Monitoring

COVID-19 Data in Lowell (Last 3 Weekly Reports)

Date	Average Daily Incidence Rate Per 100,000	Percent Positivity Rate
12/24/20	120.9	11.49
12/31/20	91.1	10.80
1/7/21	78.8	10.15

Updated: 1/11/21

- [1/6/21 COVID Data Monitoring](#)
- [12/21/20 COVID Data Monitoring](#)
- [12/16/20 COVID Data Monitoring](#)

COVID Protocols and Guidelines

- [Potential COVID Symptoms](#)
- [Face Mask Protocol and Guidelines](#)
- [Quarantine Guidelines](#)